

February 13, 2006

To: Federal Communications Commission

I would like to comment on the FCC's "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" 05-311 on "video franchising". Local franchising is important to ensure a democratic and diverse media. Many communities (particularly underrepresented groups) depend on local franchising in order to be able to get valuable information and service to their residents and franchising ensures that media is accountable to these communities instead of big business and the telecommunication lobbyists.

Furthermore, local franchising is what makes PEG TV (public, educational and governmental) possible. Media is increasingly becoming more and more representative of large monopoly telecommunication industries. It is the duty of the government and of the people to ensure a fair and democratic use of the public airwaves. Without it, we put democratic principles at risk and shut out many underrepresented and vital voices and ideas.

I strongly support public access in NYC, please keep democracy working by ruling for local franchises.

Sincerely,
Teresa Basilio